Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of cutting a laminated web structure comprising the steps of:

(a) engaging a first side of the laminated web with a first crack initiator having a high rake angle, the first crack initiator extending from a first cutter base having a low rake angle, the laminated web including at least a support web, and an upper layer, the upper layer being thinner than the support web, the upper layer being located at the first side of the laminated web structure;

(b) simultaneously engaging a second side of the laminated web with a second cutter, the second cutter being offset from the first cutter;

(~~b~~c) generating a first crack in the first side of the laminated web with the first crack initiator completely through the upper layer;

(~~c~~d) engaging the laminated web with the cutter base of the first cutter; and

(~~d~~e) further propagating the first crack beyond the tip of the first crack ~~creak~~ initiator using the first cutter base, whereby ~~while disengaging~~ the tip of the first crack initiator ~~of the first cutter~~ is disengaged from the laminated web.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

propagating the crack through to the second side of the laminated web.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a second crack in the second side of the web with the second cutter; and

(b) propagating the first crack to intersect with the second crack.

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the second cutter includes a second crack initiator.

5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the first crack initiator has a height that is greater than a thickness of the upper layer on the first side of the laminated web structure and is at least 5 microns.

6. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the high rake angle of the first crack initiator is in the range of from ~~about~~ 45° to ~~about~~ 70°.

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7. (original) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the low rake angle of the first cutter is at least about 15° less the high rake angle of the first crack initiator.

7 8. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein:

the second crack initiator has a high rake angle in the range of from ~~about~~ 45° to ~~about~~ 70°.

9. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the first crack initiator has a relief angle of ~~not more~~ less than ~~about~~ 30°.

10. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein:

the first cutter base has a relief angle of ~~not more~~ less than ~~about~~ 30°.

11. (original) A method as recited in claim 3 wherein:

the first crack initiator includes a relief edge that is either straight or curved.

12. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the first cutter base has a rake edge that is either straight or curved.

13. (original) A method as recited in claim 12 wherein:
the first cutter base has a relief edge that is either straight or curved.

14. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the laminated web structure includes at least one additional layer residing between the support web and the upper layer.

15. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the laminated web structure is an imaging element and the upper layer is a protective layer.

16. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the laminated web structure is an imaging element and the upper layer is a polymeric material.

17. (original) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein:
the polymeric material is coated onto the support web or onto an intermediate layer.

18. (original) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein:
the polymeric material is a separate web laminated onto the support web or onto an intermediate layer.

19. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the upper layer is selected from a group consisting of ~~a laminate is~~ polyethylene, polypropylene, or polystyrene, or a blend thereof, or a copolymer thereof.